



The South Bay

# BEACON

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## Presidential Ponderings

By: Lisa Schumacher



It's summer time – time to take vacations. I took mine in April-May. After 6 days of bike riding in Sicily, I went to the small island of Procida off the Naples, Italy coast. There I met up with Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto, his brother and their wives.

We were there for the Annual Meeting of La Grande Famille de Procida & Ischia. With the help of the association's president, Pascal Scotto di Vettimo, the society's presentation of *Who Do You Think You Are?* in September 2012, traced Mayor Scotto's family back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Pascal also contacted living relatives and organized a family reunion for the weekend we were there. It was a wonderful trip. Read more about it on page 3.

**Congratulations** to Eric Siess, our Vice President and Program Chair. He received his certification from the Board for Certification of Genealogists on June 5, 2013. Good job, Eric, and we are proud to have you as a member and SBCGS Board member.

I hope to see you all at the upcoming SBCGS General Meetings. They should be interesting and fun!



# Scotto di Gregorio Family Reunion: Procida, Italy

By Lisa Schumacher

Follow-up story to SBCGS's Torrance Centennial Program, *Who Do You Think You Are?*  
(Other articles were in the 2012 Nov/Dec and 2013 Jan/Feb issues)

During the preliminary meetings with the featured families of our 2012 program, *Torrance: Who Do You Think You Are?* Mayor Frank Scotto shared with us what little he knew about his father, Tommaso before he came to the US. Fortunately he had a copy of Tommaso's Social Security application that provided information to start research in Italy.

With the help of Pascal Scotto di Vettimo, President of the association, *La Grande Famille de Procida & Ischia*, the Scotto di Gregorio lineage on the island of Procida was traced back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. As a bonus, instigated by Pascal, Mayor Scotto was presented with a letter from the Mayor of Procida, extending his friendship and hopes that the Torrance Mayor would be able to visit Procida, perhaps in May 2013 to attend the General Meeting of *La Grande Famille*.

The Mayor also had photos from trips his father had taken back to Procida, alone, in the 1960's & 70's. They were wonderful family photos . . . with no names written on the backs! We sent a few of the photos to Pascal asking if there was any way to identify the people in the photos. In about 2 weeks, we got an answer. Pascal asked his in-laws for help and they identified the older woman as Tommaso's sister, Giovannina and 2 of her sons, a daughter and daughter-in-law. One of the sons, Nicola, is the father of Pascal's wife's best friend!!



1970 - Giovannina (Scotto di Gregorio) Assante di Panzillo  
Son, Nicola on the right.

Note: because Nicola did not have the Scotto surname, Pascal did NOT know that he personally had a connection to the family when he starting researching for us!!

And so . . . on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 Frank Scotto, with his brother, Michael and their wives, arrived at the port of Procida, greeted by their 1<sup>st</sup> cousin, Nicola, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin (it was eventually determined that his grandfather and Frank's grandfather were brothers).

May 3, 2013  
Vice Mayor of Procida, Mary Cappodano,  
Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto,  
1<sup>st</sup> cousin Nicola Assante di Panzillo,  
2<sup>nd</sup> cousin Gennaro Scotto di Gregorio,  
Michael Scotto (Frank's brother).



On Saturday there was a Scotto di Gregorio Family Reunion. At left is Pascal, who planned the 3-day weekend visit for the Scottos. In front of him is Giovanna Assante di Panzillo, his wife's best friend and Nicola's daughter.

On Sunday, Mayor Scotto and I attended the Association's meeting, where Pascal presented him with further research proving that his 6<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, Michael Scotto di Gregorio, was Mayor of Procida in 1693. In the afternoon, Nicola took the Scotto brothers and wives to see the houses where their father had lived and visit a few more relatives. It was an incredible experience for the Mayor and his brother to meet their cousins and there were some tearful goodbyes at the end of the weekend.